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**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Fish and Wildlife Service**

**[FWS–HQ–ES–2015–N224]**

**[FGES111309WLLF0–156]**

**Information Collection Request Sent to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Approval; Wolf-Livestock Demonstration Project Grant Program**

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** We (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) have sent an Information Collection Request (ICR) to OMB for review and approval. We summarize the ICR below and describe the nature of the collection and the estimated burden and cost. This information collection is scheduled to expire on December 31, 2015. We may not conduct or sponsor and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. However, under OMB regulations, we may continue to conduct or sponsor this information collection while it is pending at OMB.

**DATES:** You must submit comments on or before **[INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]**.

**ADDRESSES:** Send your comments and suggestions on this information collection to the Desk Officer for the Department of the Interior at OMB–OIRA at (202) 395–5806 (fax) or [OIRA\\_Submission@omb.eop.gov](mailto:OIRA_Submission@omb.eop.gov) (email). Please provide a copy of your comments to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, U.S. Fish

and Wildlife Service, MS BPHC, 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041–3803 (mail), or hope\_grey@fws.gov (email). Please include “1018–0154” in the subject line of your comments.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** To request additional information about this ICR, contact Hope Grey at hope\_grey@fws.gov (email) or 703–358–2482 (telephone). You may review the ICR online at <http://www.reginfo.gov>. Follow the instructions to review Department of the Interior collections under review by OMB.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Information Collection Request**

*OMB Control Number:* 1018–0154.

*Title:* Wolf-Livestock Demonstration Project Grant Program.

*Service Form Number:* None.

*Type of Request:* Extension of a currently approved collection.

*Description of Respondents:* States and Indian tribes.

*Obligation to Respond:* Required to obtain or retain a benefit.

*Estimated Number of Annual Respondents:* 10.

*Frequency of Collection:* On occasion for applications, annually for reports, and ongoing for recordkeeping.

*Estimated Number of Responses and Annual Burden Hours:*

ACTIVITY	NUMBER OF RESPONSES	COMPLETION TIME PER RESPONSE	TOTAL ANNUAL BURDEN HOURS
Applications	22	8 hours	176
Reports and Recordkeeping	20	14 hours	280
<b>TOTALS</b>	42		456

*Estimated Annual Nonhour Burden Cost:* None.

*Abstract:* Subtitle C of Title VI of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (Act; Pub. L. 111–11) authorizes the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to develop a Wolf-Livestock Demonstration Project Grant Program (WLDPGP) to:

- Assist livestock producers in undertaking proactive, nonlethal activities to reduce the risk of livestock loss due to predation by wolves; and
- Compensate livestock producers for livestock losses due to such predation.

The Act directs that the program be established as a grant program to provide funding to States and tribes, that the Federal cost share not exceed 50 percent, and that funds be expended equally between the two purposes. The Act included an authorization of appropriations up to \$1 million each fiscal year for 5 years. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Ecological Services Program will allocate the funding in the form of competitively awarded grants to States and tribes with a prior history of wolf depredation. States with delisted wolf populations are eligible for funding, provided that they meet the eligibility criteria contained in Pub. L. 111–11.

The following additional criteria apply to all WLDPGP grants and must be satisfied for a project to receive WLDPGP funding:

- Proposal cannot include U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service full-time equivalent (FTE) costs.
- Proposal cannot seek funding for projects that serve to satisfy regulatory requirements of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), including complying with a biological opinion under section 7 or fulfilling commitments of a habitat conservation plan (HCP) under ESA section 10, or for projects that serve to

satisfy other Federal regulatory requirements (e.g., mitigation for Federal permits).

- State administrative costs must be assumed by the State or included in the proposal in accordance with Federal requirements.

We will publish notices of funding opportunity on the Grants.gov Web site at <http://www.grants.gov>, as well as in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance at <http://cfda.gov>. This information collection includes both grant applications and reporting/recordkeeping requirements. To compete for grant funds, eligible States and tribes must submit an application that describes in substantial detail project locations, project resources, future benefits, and other characteristics that meet the Wolf-Livestock Demonstration Project Grant Program purposes as listed above. In accordance with the Act, States and tribes that receive a grant must:

- Maintain files of all claims received under programs funded by the grant, including supporting documentation; and
- Submit an annual report that includes a summary of claims and expenditures under the program during the year and a description of any action taken on the claims.

### **Comments Received and Our Responses**

On August 18, 2015, we published in the *Federal Register* (80 FR 50024) a notice of our intent to request that OMB renew approval for this information collection. In that notice, we solicited comments for 60 days, ending on October 19, 2015. We received two comments. One commenter expressed opinions about WLDPGP funding and wolf management in general, but did not address the

information collection requirements. The second commenter described the program as an excellent source of dedicated funds for preventative strategies to reduce wolf-livestock conflict, but expressed frustration with the accessibility of annual reports. The Service's Regional Offices are responsible for monitoring the grant projects and maintaining the administrative record of WLDPGP grants. In the future, we commit to ensuring that all annual reports are filed in the appropriate Regional Offices and made readily available upon request. No changes were made to the information collection requirements as a result of these comments.

### **Request for Public Comments**

We again invite comments concerning this information collection on:

- Whether or not the collection of information is necessary, including whether or not the information will have practical utility;
- The accuracy of our estimate of the burden for this collection of information;
- Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- Ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents.

Comments that you submit in response to this notice are a matter of public record. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask OMB and us in your comment to

withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that it will be done.

**Dated:** November 25, 2015

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**Tina A. Campbell,**  
***Chief, Division of Policy, Performance, and Management Programs,***  
***U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.***

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